

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A catheter structure comprising:

a main tube having a proximal end and a distal end, said main tube distal end having a lateral ~~aperture delimiting a main tube edge~~ opening;

a distal tube having a proximal end and a distal end, ~~said proximal end being slantwise cut defining a distal tube outer edge~~; and

a guide tube having a proximal end and a distal end, said guide tube having at least a portion extending in said distal tube, ~~a portion of said guide tube adjacent to said distal tube proximal end being positioned together at a location adjacent to said main tube distal end~~; a portion of said distal tube adjacent to said distal tube proximal end enclosing both a portion of said main tube adjacent to said main tube distal end and a portion of said guide tube adjacent to said guide tube proximal end, and ~~said guide tube proximal end being flute cut defining a proximal guide tube edge~~; a portion of said guide tube adjacent to said guide tube proximal end extending into said lateral aperture opening of said main tube distal end, said main tube having a part which is deflected and inclined towards the inside of said main tube, and a portion of said guide tube adjacent to said guide tube proximal end resting on the outside of said deflected and inclined part of said main tube, and said flute cut being joined to at least a portion of the distal tube outer edge and at least a portion of the main tube edge defining a side port in the catheter structure.

Claim 2 (Original): The catheter structure in accordance with claim 1, further comprising an inflatable balloon and a lumen for a guide thread, wherein said proximal end of said guide tube and said proximal end of said distal tube are functionally connected and disposed adjacent to one another, said proximal end of said distal tube encloses said distal end of said main tube and said proximal end of said guide tube tightly and simultaneously, and said proximal end of said distal

tube is flared in order to peripherally surround said guide tube extending into said distal end of said main tube.

Claim 3 (Cancelled)

Claim 4 (Original): The catheter structure in accordance with claim 1, wherein said proximal ends of said guide tube and said distal tube are joined to one another and to said distal end of said main tube by means of heat sealing.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The catheter structure in accordance with claim 1, wherein said proximal ends of said guide tube and said distal tube are beveled at said lateral ~~aperture~~ opening of said main tube.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The catheter structure in accordance with claim 2, wherein said guide tube extends beyond a front end of said distal tube, and said balloon is arranged between said guide tube and said distal tube, with a terminal neck fixed to said guide tube and another terminal neck fixed to said distal tube.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The catheter structure in accordance with claim 6, wherein said main tube and said distal tube together form a lumen for sending an inflation fluid into said balloon, and said guide tube forms said lumen for a guide thread.

Claim 8 (Original): The catheter structure in accordance with claim 1, wherein said main tube comprises tubular sections having at least one of different material compositions, different thickness and different rigidities, and said guide tube and said distal tube are formed of materials that are different from one another and different from said main tube.

Claim 9 (Original): The catheter structure in accordance with claim 1, wherein said main tube comprises tubular sections having at least one of different material compositions, different thickness and different rigidities, and said guide tube and said distal tube are formed of the same material.

Claim 10 (Original): The catheter structure in accordance with claim 1, further comprising an inflatable balloon.

Claim 11 (Original): The catheter structure in accordance with claim 10, wherein said distal tube proximal end is flared in order to peripherally reach both said distal end of said main tube and said proximal end of said guide tube.

Claim 12 (Original): The catheter structure in accordance with claim 10, wherein said guide tube portion adjacent to said guide tube proximal end and said distal tube portion adjacent to said distal tube proximal end are joined to one another and to said main tube portion adjacent to said main tube distal end by a heat seal.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The catheter structure in accordance with claim 10, wherein said guide tube proximal end and said distal tube proximal end are beveled at said lateral ~~aperture~~ opening of said main tube.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The catheter structure in accordance with claim 10, wherein said guide tube extends beyond a front end of said distal tube, and said balloon is arranged between said guide tube and said distal tube, with a terminal neck fixed to said guide tube and another terminal neck fixed to said distal tube.

Claim 15 (Original): The catheter structure in accordance with claim 14, wherein said main tube and said distal tube together form a first lumen for sending an inflation fluid into said balloon, and said guide tube forms a second lumen for the passage of a guide thread.

Claim 16 (Cancelled)

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): The catheter structure in accordance with claim 16 1, wherein said guide tube proximal end extends along the entire length of said deflected and inclined part of the distal end of the main tube as far as said lateral ~~aperture delimiting said main tube edge~~ opening of said main tube.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): A side port assembly comprising:

a main tube having a proximal end and a distal end, said main tube distal end having a lateral ~~aperture delimiting a main tube edge~~ opening;

a distal tube having a proximal end and a distal end, ~~said distal proximal end being slantwise cut defining a distal tube outer edge~~; and

a guide tube having a proximal end and a distal end, said guide tube having at least a portion extending in said distal tube, ~~a portion of said guide tube adjacent to said distal tube proximal end being positioned together at a location adjacent to said main tube distal end~~; a portion of said distal tube adjacent to said distal tube proximal end enclosing both a portion of said main tube adjacent to said main tube distal end and a portion of said guide tube adjacent to said guide tube proximal end, ~~and said guide tube proximal end having an opening on one side of said main tube, said guide tube proximal end being flute cut defining a proximal guide tube edge, a portion of said guide tube adjacent to said guide tube proximal end extending into said lateral aperture opening of said main tube~~ distal end and into said distal tube, said main tube having a part which is deflected and inclined towards the inside of said main tube, and a portion of said guide tube adjacent to said guide tube proximal end resting on the outside of said deflected and

~~inclined part of said main tube, and said flute cut being joined to at least a portion of the distal tube outer edge and at least a portion of the distal tube main tube edge.~~

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): A method for manufacturing a catheter structure in accordance with claim 1, comprising the steps of:

- providing a main tube with a proximal end and a distal end;
- providing a guide tube with a proximal end and a distal end;
- providing a distal tube with a proximal end and a distal end;
- providing a lateral aperture opening on said main tube ~~defining a main tube edge~~ distal end;
- ~~cutting the distal tube proximal end with a slantwise and defining a distal tube outer edge;~~
- ~~extending said proximal end of said guide tube into said lateral aperture;~~
- enclosing said distal end of said main tube and said proximal end of said guide tube into said proximal end of said distal tube; and
- ~~cutting said guide tube proximal end with flute cut defining a proximal guide tube edge of an opening on one side of said main tube;~~
- extending said guide tube proximal end into said lateral ~~aperture~~ opening of said main tube and into said distal tube, wherein said main tube has a part which is deflected and inclined towards the inside of said main tube, and a portion of said guide tube adjacent to said guide tube proximal end rests on the outside of said deflected and inclined part of said main tube; and
- ~~joining said flute cut to at least a portion of the distal tube outer edge and to at least a portion of the distal tube main tube edge.~~

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): The method in accordance with claim 19, further comprising the step of fixing said distal end of said main tube, said proximal end of said guide tube and said proximal end of said distal tube to one another by means of a heat-sealing operation.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): The method in accordance with claim 20 wherein before the step of fixing said distal end of said main tube, said proximal end of said guide tube and said proximal end of said distal tube to one another by means of a heat-sealing operation, the method further comprises the step of inserting two expanders into said distal end of said main tube and into said proximal end of said guide tube.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): The method in accordance with claim 21, further comprising the step of extracting said expanders.